

Claim Amendments

Claims 1-16 (cancelled)

17. (new) An adapter for coupling an existing connector of a multi-wire interconnect system to a different ambient condition detector than the one for which the existing connector was designed, the adapter comprising:

a non-conductive housing which carries a first set of electrical conductors and a second set of electrical conductors where the number of the second set of conductors at least equals the number of the first set of conductors, where members of the first set exhibit an electro-mechanical plug-type profile for engagement with socket elements of the existing connector; and

where members of the second set comprise an electro-mechanical socket-type profile for engagement with a second plug carried by the ambient condition detector, where the existing connector and the second plug are incompatible and are not mutually engageable, where the first set of electrical conductors comprises a plurality of rigid connecting prongs which extend in a first direction, exposed relative to the housing, so as to engageable with the existing connector.

18. (new) An adapter as in claim 17 where the first and second sets each comprise three conductors.

19. (new) An adapter as in claim 17, where the first and second sets extend substantially parallel to one another and are joined by one of discrete conductors, or, printed wiring.

20. (new) An adapter as in claim 17, where the socket-type profile of the second set is axially oriented relative to the housing.

21. (new) An adapter as in claim 19 where the first and second sets of conductors each comprise three conductors.

22. (new) An adapter as in claim 17 where at least one of the conductors delivers power to a respective ambient condition detector and another conductor provides electrical signaling to/from the respective detector.

23. (new) An adapter as in claim 22 where some of the conductors in the housing are movable between first and second positions in the housing.

24. (new) An adapter as in claim 19 where the prongs extend, at least in part, from the housing.

25. (new) An adapter as in claim 17 where the first and second sets of conductors are joined by one of discrete conductors or printed wiring.

26. (new) An adapter for coupling an existing connector of a multi-wire interconnect system to a different ambient condition detector than the one for which the existing connector was designed, the adapter comprising:

a non-conductive housing coupled to a first set of electrical contacts and a second set of contacts where the number of the second set at least equals the number of the first set of contacts, where members of the first set exhibit an electro-mechanical plug-type profile for engagement with socket elements of the existing connector; and

where members of the second set exhibit an electro-mechanical socket-type profile for engagement with a second plug carried by the ambient condition detector where the existing connector and the second plug are incompatible and are not mutually engageable, where the first set of electrical contacts includes a plurality of rigid conducting prongs.

27. (new) An adapter as in claim 26 where the contacts of the first and second sets include at least one of a power conductor and a signaling conductor.

28. (new) An adapter as in claim 26 which includes at least a second housing to which is coupled third and fourth spaced apart contacts, the second and fourth contacts being substantially identical, the first and third contacts being different.

29. (new) An adapter system comprising:

a housing having first and second sides;

a plurality of conductors carried by the housing;

first and second pluralities of contacts electrically coupled to respective conductors with one of the first contacts, and one of the second contacts coupling communications signals between one of a local source and a remote destination, or a local destination and a remote source and with another of the first contacts, and another of the second contacts coupling electrical energy from a remote source to a local destination with the mechanical configuration of the first plurality of contacts comprising a plug configuration matable with one of a plurality of existing interconnected sockets and with the mechanical configuration of the second plurality of contacts comprising a socket configuration matable with a plug of a local electrical unit where the plug of the electrical unit is not matable with the existing socket such that the conductors in the housing couple electrical energy in one direction to the socket of the housing and couple communication signals bidirectionally between the plug and socket thereof.

30. (new) An adapter system as in claim 29 where the conductors comprise printed wiring.

31. (new) An apparatus comprising:

an ambient condition detector, the detector carries a connector of a predetermined configuration having at least one of a multi-conductor electrical plug, or a multi-conductor electrical socket ;

at least one adapter having a plug and a socket with one of the plug or the socket configured to engage the connector of the detector with the other of the plug or the socket configured to engage a power/signaling connector of a power/signaling cable, the connector of the detector is incompatible with the power/signaling connector.

32. (new) An apparatus as in claim 31 with the adapter having a housing which carries the plug and socket.

33. (new) An apparatus as in claim 32 where the plug and socket are electrically interconnected by at least one of discrete conductors, or printed wiring.

34. (new) An apparatus as in claim 32 which includes at least a second, different adapter having a plug and a socket with one of the plug or the socket configured to engage the detector and with the other of the plug or the socket configured to engage a different power/signaling connector of a power/signaling cabler, the connector of the detector is incompatible with the different power/signaling connector.

35. (new) An apparatus as in claim 31 where the detector is selected from a group which includes a fire detector, a gas detector, a heat detector, and a combined fire/gas detector.

36. (new) An apparatus as in claim 35 where one conductor of the detector connector comprises a power input and another comprises a bi-directional signaling port, and, where the plug of the adapter includes at least two plug-type contacts and the socket thereof includes at least two socket-type contacts with one contact of each type engageable with the power input and the other contact of each type engageable with the signaling port.

37. (new) An apparatus as in claim 36 where the adapter includes a housing, the plug and socket are electrically interconnected by printed wiring, and where the plug and socket extend substantially parallel to one another.

38. (new) An apparatus as in claim 37 where the printed wiring is carried within the housing.